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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF	:
MASAYUKI TAKAHASHI	: EXAMINER: HALIM, S.
SERIAL NO: 10/692,797	:
FILED: OCTOBER 27, 2003	: GROUP ART UNIT: 2457
FOR: INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM, APPARATUS, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT HAVING NETWORK-SPECIFIC ADDRESS FEATURES AND GLOBAL ADDRESS FEATURES	:

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Appellant-applicants appeal the final rejections made in the Office Action of October 20, 2008 and request that the BPAI reverse the final rejections so the present application will be placed in condition of allowance.

I. REAL PART IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Sony Corporation, the assignee of record.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no known prior or pending appeals, judicial proceedings or interferences known to the appellant which may be related to, directly affect, or be directly affected by or having a bearing on the Board's decision in the present appeal.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 are pending and finally rejected. Claims 1-25 are on appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All amendments have been entered, and there have been no amendments filed subsequent to the final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing system that includes a first information processing apparatus connected with a first network and also connected with a second network via an address translator for address translation. The system also includes a second information processing apparatus configured to perform communication with the first information processing apparatus. A third information processing apparatus is connected with the second network and manages communication between the first processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus.

A nonlimiting example of a first information processing apparatus is shown as a client terminal 11 at Figures 4 and 5, element 11. The second information processing apparatus in this embodiment is shown as another client terminal 12. The third information processing apparatus in this embodiment is shown in the exemplary figures as an "instant messaging" server 21.

Therefore, this example when considered in the context of Claim 1, would have the first information processing apparatus correspond with client 11. The second information processing apparatus would correspond with client 12. The third information processing apparatus would correspond with the IM server 21 (see e.g. Figure 4). The claim language regarding the "first information processing apparatus requests the third information processing apparatus to provide information associated with the connection of the second

information processing apparatus," would correspond with registered addresses of the client 11 and client 12 in the IM server 21 [0078]. The language regarding the third information processing apparatus providing an information associated with the connection, as claimed, would correspond with the CPU 321 of the IM server determining whether the addresses of the two clients are identical and sending the result of the determination in the form of one-bit data to the client 11 [0080]. Moreover, in the exemplary embodiment when the addresses are equal, the 1-bit information is a logical 1, indicating that both of the client addresses are identical; when the addresses are not equal, the one-bit information is a logical 0, indicating the addresses are not equal to each other [0080]. This logical 1 and logical 0, corresponds with the information provided by the third information processing apparatus.

The determination made by the first information processing apparatus as claimed based on the information provided by the third information apparatus is determined by the client 11, as also described at step S4 of Figure 9 [0081].

The last element of Claim 1 provides that the first and second information processing apparatus is communicated on the basis of a network-specific address when it is determined that the two apparatuses are connected on the same network. Support for this feature is found in an exemplary embodiment as shown at Figure 9, step S6 and discussed in [0081]. On the other hand, when the two apparatuses are deemed to not be connected to the same network, communication between the two apparatuses is performed on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, namely using a global address. Non-limiting support is found in [0082], and at step S8 of Figure 9.

As such, the present application describes an IP address as being defined as a global address on the internet [0004]. When a client operates through a network address translation (NAT) device 41, the network address translation apparatus replaces a source address of an IP address packet with a combination of the IP address serving as the global address of NAT

apparatus 41 and a port number of a port to which the client 11 is connected [0011]. When the two clients operate on the same network, then it is possible to have peer-to-peer communication between the two clients, not using the IP addresses serving as global addresses, but instead local addresses that are defined on the common network 32 [0016].

An observation made by the present inventors is that from the perspective of the IM server 21, (referring to Figure 5), an address of a client 11 will appear to be the address at point A that would correspond to the NAT 41 that is the go-between for all of the clients 11, 51 and 52. Thus, if an address for the two clients are equal to one another (i.e. client 12 has the same address as client 11), then this is indicative that the two clients are connected to a common network [0081]. In this situation, it is possible to perform peer-to-peer communication between the clients on the basis of using local addresses defined on the LAN 31 and such a process is described in detail in the flowchart at Figure 11 [0081]. On the other hand, after inspecting the registered addresses at the IM server 21, when it is concluded that the address for client 11 is different from that of client 12, then communications between the two clients should be performed on the basis of a global address.

Claim 7 is a method claim and includes features like that discussed above with regard to Claim 1. The first information processing apparatus may be a client terminal 11 shown at Figures 4 and 5, element 11. The second information processing apparatus is shown as another client terminal 12 and the third information processing apparatus is shown in the exemplary figures as an "instant messaging" server 21. Although the structure recited in the beginning portion of Claim 7 corresponds with the structure previously discussed, including the paragraph and line numbers in reference to the present specification in light of Claim 1, the last claim element in Claim 7 warrants further explanation. In particular, the claim provides that the first and second information processing apparatus communicate on the basis of a network-specific address when it is determined that the two apparatuses are connected on

the network. Support for this feature is found in the exemplary embodiment as shown in Figure 9, step S6 and discussed in [0081]. However, when the two apparatuses are deemed to not be connected to the same network, communication between the two apparatuses is performed on the basis of a different address then a network-specific address, namely a global address. Non-limiting support is found at [0082], and at step S8 at Figure 9.

Claim 8 is directed to an information processing apparatus that includes a "request means" that requests a server to provide information associated with the connection of another information processing apparatus. Support for the claimed request means is found in the specification as client 11 (Figures 4 and 5). The structure of the client 11 is shown in Figure 6, which performs step S1, Figure 9, described at [0079]. A reception means is for receiving information associated with the connection of another information processing apparatus from the server, and is supported in the specification by the IM server 21 (see Figures 4 and 5), whose structure is shown, for example, in Figure 8 and performs the acts shown in Figure 10 as discussed generally in paragraphs [0083] to [0087]. The claimed communication means corresponds with the structure discussed above with regard to client 11, and the acts shown in Figure 11 and 12 regarding local address-based communication, and Figure 13 regarding the global address-based communication. Other features of the last element in Claim 8, especially regarding the global address, network-specific address and making a determination based on the information received from the server are consistent with that discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

Claim 17 is a method claim, and includes a step of performing communication, that includes the descriptive language discussed above with regard to Claim 1 for example, regarding using a network-specific address when a first and second device are connected on a first network, and using a different address than the network-specific address when the two devices are not connected on the same network, the different address being a global address.

Also, specific steps are in described in [0078] – [0082] with regard to Figure 9, Figure 11 and Figures 13, 14.

Claim 18 is a computer program product claim that includes steps similar to that discussed above with regard to Claim 17. In particular, specific steps are described in [0078] – [0082] regarding using a network-specific address when a first and second device are connected on a first network, and using a different address than the network-specific address when the two devices are not connected on the same network, the different address being a global address.

Claim 19 includes three means-plus-function claim elements. The corresponding structure for the claimed reception means, corresponds with the IM server 21, the structure of which is shown in Figure 8. The claimed examination means corresponds with the CPU 321 of the IM server 21 examining the registered address at the client 11 and determining whether the address that the clients 11 and 12 are identical to one another [0079]. Also see steps S3 and S4 in Figure 9. The claimed informing means, also corresponds to the CPU 321 of the IM server 21. The act of such determination is described in step S24 as shown in Figure 10 [0079].

Claim 24 is a method claim that includes steps corresponding to the functional features defined in Claim 19. The step of "receiving", corresponds with the IM server 21, at step S2 of Figure 9, requesting that the IM server determine whether the address of the client is identical to an address of a client with which to communicate. The examining step corresponds with steps S3 and S4 in Figure 9, and as discussed at [0080]. The informing step corresponds with step S24 of Figure 10 as discussed in [0081].

Claim 25 is a computer program product claim having computer readable instructions for causing a computer to perform processing so as to implement the steps discussed above with regard to Claim 24 and the means previously discussed with regard to Claim 19. In

particular, a description of step of "examining" corresponds with the CPU 321 of the IM server 21 examining the registered address at the client 11 and determining whether the address that the clients 11 and 12 are identical to one another [0079]. Also, a description of the informing step includes step S24 as shown in Figure 10 and explained at [0079]. Also, the means corresponds with the CPU 321 of the IM server 21 examining the registered address at the client 11 and determining whether the address that the clients 11 and 12 are identical to one another [0079].

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 1, 7, 8, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd ¶.
2. Claims 1-22 and 24-25 stand rejected as being anticipated by DeBruine et al. (U.S. patent Publication No. 2002/0138552)
3. Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBruine et al.

VII. ARGUMENT

Claims 1, 7, 8, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd ¶.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Final Office Action at paragraph 4 indicates that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the language "that is recognized on the second network". It is unclear why the Office has rejected Claim 1 on this basis, as "second network" is introduced at line 4 of Claim 1 ("... connected with a second network ..."). Similarly, support for Claim 7 is found at line 3, support for Claim 8 is found at line 4, support for Claim 17 is found at lines 4-5, and support for Claim 18 is found at lines 5-6. Therefore, it is believed that the language objected to in paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action is compliant with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-22 and 24-25 stand rejected as being anticipated by DeBruine et al. (U.S. patent Publication No. 2002/0138552)

MPEP § 2131, and the prevailing case law, requires that "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). While the Final Office Action asserts that DeBruine discloses every element in Claim 1, Applicants traverse this assertion. In particular DeBruine does not teach that (1) the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of the information provided by the third information processing apparatus, whether the second information processing apparatus is connected with a same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, and (2) if not connected on the same network, communication is performed on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network.

An advantage with the invention defined by Claim 1 is that it would enable a change from a private network address to an IP address (global address) based on whether the destination is within a same private network as the sending apparatus. In a non-limiting example, if the first and second apparatuses are connected on a same network, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a network-specific address defined on the first network. Thus, communication between the two apparatuses may be performed using a local address that is only meaningful within the network in which both the first apparatus and the second apparatus are members. However, when the two apparatuses are on different networks, a different address than the network-specific address is used, where the different address is a global address that is

recognized on the second network. One non-limiting example of the global address is a global IP address that even works on the Internet.

Furthermore, the determination as to whether the connection is with the same network is provided by the third information processing apparatus, and then this information is provided to the first information processing apparatus. As such, it is from the information provided by the third apparatus, provided to the first apparatus, that the first apparatus determines whether to use the network-specific address, or the global address to connect with the second apparatus.

In paragraph 24 of the Office Action, the Office asserts that DeBruine teaches using network 10 (Internet) with private network 16 (LAN).[1] The Office also asserts that the background of the reference [DeBruine] explains that typical file transfers occur over the Internet, and to optimize cost and bandwidth it is determined if clients and server nodes are on the same LAN.[2] The Office Action then appears to conclude that "if it is determined that the client and server are on the same LAN, files are transferred locally."

In reply, assuming everything described at pages 10 and 11 of the Office Action is accurate, even this explanation is insufficient to identify where every element of Claim 1 is found in DeBruine. In particular, Claim 1 requires that if the second information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that in which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network. This feature is simply absent in DeBruine. In DeBruine, an IP address is used for either a local or a global connection (see [0034], [0030], and [0022]).

[1] Office Action page 11, first paragraph.
[2] Office Action page 11, first paragraph.

While DeBruine describes an ability to exchange files between computers either in a LAN (16 of Figure 1A) for example, or over the Internet for example (see computer 14 which is connected to the computer in the LAN 16 of Figure 1A), all communications are performed using the unique IP address assigned to the computer (see discussion at [0023], explaining that each TCP/IP packet uses a client IP address and a destination IP address). In particular, the IP addresses that are used, are conventional in that they are four sets of number that are separated by periods [0023]. Determining whether the two computers (client nodes) are locally reachable from a same private network, the process described in Figures 4A and 4B are used [0029]. As seen in step 170 (Figure 4B), even if a target node is directly reachable, the requesting node uses an IP address to make the connection. Thus, DeBruine uses the same address regardless if communicating over a LAN or the Internet. Because the IP address is usable over the Internet, as well as over a private network, the addressing process used in DeBruine does not comply with the claimed "a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network", Claim 1.

Moreover, Claim 1 requires the use of a network-specific address when the first and second information processing apparatuses are determined to be used in a same network, and the use of different addresses than the network-specific address when the first and second apparatuses are not connected with the same network. This feature is absent in DeBruine. Therefore, because DeBruine does not teach or suggest all of the elements of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action fails to comply with the requirements of MPEP 2131, namely that anticipation of a claim requires that the reference must teach every element of the claim. The same feature is found in Claims 2-18, and therefore it is believed that Claims 2-18 also patentably define over DeBruine.

Claim 19, includes means plus function elements, also requires that the first address is connected with the second network being an address translator for address translation, and expressly includes "informing means for informing the first apparatus of the result of the examination performed by the examination means". Support for the informing means, is found at least in the present specification at ([0080, logical bit 1 or logical bit 0, as well Figure 11] communication using the local address-based communication when the two devices are connected on a same network, as opposed to Figure 13 and 14 which describe the use of the global address when the two devices are determined not to be connected on a common network. As such, the feature discussed above with regard to Claim 1 corresponds with the informing means as presently claimed in Claim 19. DeBruine simply does not perform this means for informing the first apparatus, as claimed. Likewise, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 24 and 25 also patentably define over the asserted prior art for reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 19.

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBruine et al.

The Office asserts that DeBruine renders obvious the features described in Claim 23 regarding transmitting an examination result in a one-bit form. Assuming *arguendo* that is correct, this aspect of DeBruine does not cure the deficiency discussed above with regard to Claim 19. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Office has failed to meet its burden of providing a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to amended Claim 23, as DeBruine does not disclose all of the elements of Claim 19 or Claim 23..

Conclusion

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, Appellants respectfully request the Board reverse the Final rejection of the pending claims so as to allow the present application to issue as a US Patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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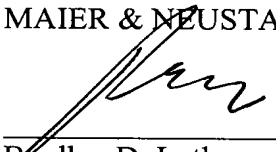

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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claim 1 (Previously Rejected): An information processing system comprising:

a first information processing apparatus connected with a first network and also connected with a second network via an address translator for addresses translation;

a second information processing apparatus configured to perform communication with the first information processing apparatus; and

a third information processing apparatus connected with the second network, for managing communication between the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests the third information processing apparatus to provide information associated with connection of the second information processing apparatus;

the third information processing apparatus provides an information associated with the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus;

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of the information provided by the third information processing apparatus, whether the second information processing apparatus is connected with a same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected; and

the first information processing apparatus performs communication with the second information processing apparatus such that if the second information processing apparatus is determined to be connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if the second information processing apparatus is determined not to be

connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network.

Claim 2 (Previously Rejected): An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests the third information processing apparatus to provide, as the information associated with the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus, the global address, defined on the second network, of the second information processing apparatus;

the third information processing apparatus provides, as the information associated with the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus, the global address, defined on the second network, of the second information processing apparatus; and

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of the global address, defined on the second network, of the second information processing apparatus, whether the second information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 3 (Previously Rejected): An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests, as the information associated with the connection, information indicating whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network;

the third information processing apparatus examines whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network and the third information processing apparatus provides a result of the examination as the information associated with the connection; and

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of a received information indicating the result of the examination performed by the third information processing apparatus, whether the second information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 4 (Previously Rejected): An information processing system according to claim 3, wherein the third information processing apparatus examines whether the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus are connected with the same network, on the basis of addresses defined on the second network, of the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus.

Claim 5 (Original): An information processing system according to claim 3, wherein the third information processing apparatus examines whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same address translator to examine whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network.

Claim 6 (Previously Rejected): An information processing system according to claim 5, wherein the third information processing apparatus examines whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus have the same global address defined on the second network to examine whether the second

information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network.

Claim 7 (Previously Rejected): An information processing method for an information processing system including a first information processing apparatus connected with a first network and also connected with a second network via an address translator for addresses translation, a second information processing apparatus that performs communication with the first information processing apparatus, and, a third information processing apparatus connected with the second network, for managing communication between the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests the third information processing apparatus to provide information associated with connection of the second information processing apparatus;

the third information processing apparatus provides an information associated with the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus;

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of the information provided by the third information processing apparatus, whether the second information processing apparatus is connected with a same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected; and

the first information processing apparatus performs communication with the second information processing apparatus such that if the second information processing apparatus is determined to be connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a network-specific address defined on the first

network, while if the second information processing apparatus is determined not to be connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network.

Claim 8 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus that performs communication with another information processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus being connected with a first network and also connected, via an address translator for addresses translation, with a second network with which a server is connected, the information processing apparatus comprising

request means for requesting the server to provide information associated with connection of said another information processing apparatus;

reception means for receiving information associated with the connection of said another information processing apparatus from the server; and

communication means for performing communication with said another information processing apparatus such that the communication means determines, on the basis of the information received from the server, whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with a same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, and if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the communication means performs communication with said another information processing apparatus on the basis of a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected,

the communication means performs communication with said another information processing apparatus on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network.

Claim 9 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the request means requests, as the information associated with connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus, the global address, defined on the second network, of said another information processing apparatus; and

the communication means determines, on the basis of the global address, defined on the second network, of said another information processing apparatus, whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 10 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

the request means requests, as the information associated with the connection, information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same network; and

the communication means determines, on the basis of the information supplied from the server, whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 11 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the request means requests, as the information indicating whether said another

information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same network, information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same address translator.

Claim 12 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the request means requests, as the information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same address translator, information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus have the same address.

Claim 13 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

the first network is a LAN;

the second network is the Internet;

the network-specific address on the first network is a local address; and

the different address on the second network is a global address.

Claim 14 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein if the information received from the server indicates that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the request means further requests the server to provide the different address, defined on the second network, of the information processing apparatus.

Claim 15 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the communication means transmits the different address, defined on the second network, of the information processing apparatus to said another information processing apparatus via the server and receives the different address, defined on the second network, of said another information processing apparatus via the server.

Claim 16 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the communication means transmits the network-specific address, defined on the first network, of the information processing apparatus to said another information processing apparatus via the server and receives the network-specific address, defined on the first network, of said another information processing apparatus via the server.

Claim 17 (Previously Rejected): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus that performs communication with another information processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus being connected with a first network and also connected, via an address translator for addresses translation, with a second network with which a server is connected, the information processing method comprising the steps of:

requesting the server to provide information associated with connection of said another information processing apparatus;

receiving information associated with the connection of said another information processing apparatus from the server; and

performing communication with said another information processing apparatus in such a manner that determination as to whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected is made on the basis of the information received from the server, and if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network.

Claim 18 (Previously Rejected): A computer program product having computer readable instructions for causing a computer to perform processing associated with an information processing apparatus that performs communication with another information processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus being connected with a first network and also connected, via an address translator for addresses translation, with a second network with which a server is connected, the processing comprising the steps of:

requesting the server to provide information associated with connection of said another information processing apparatus;

receiving information associated with the connection of said another information processing apparatus from the server; and

performing communication with said another information processing apparatus in such a manner that determination as to whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected is made on the basis of the information received from the server, and if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized on the second network.

Claim 19 (Original): An information processing apparatus connected with a first network and a second network, for managing communication between a first apparatus and a second apparatus, the first apparatus being connected with the second network via an address translator for address translation, the information processing apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving, from the first apparatus, a request for determination as to whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected;

examination means for examining whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected; and

informing means for informing the first apparatus of the result of the examination performed by the examination means.

Claim 20 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the examination means examines whether the first apparatus and the second apparatus are connected with the same address translator to examine whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected.

Claim 21 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the examination means examines whether the first apparatus and the second apparatus have a same address to examine whether the fist apparatus and the second apparatus are connected with the same address translator.

Claim 22 (Previously Rejected): An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein

the first network is a LAN;

the second network is the Internet;

an address on the first network is a local address; and

an address on the second network is a global address.

Claim 23 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the informing means transmits 1-bit data indicating the result of the examination performed by the examination means to the first apparatus.

Claim 24 (Original): An information processing method, in an information processing apparatus connected with a first network and a second network, for managing communication between a first apparatus and a second apparatus, the first apparatus being connected with the second network via an address translator for address transformation, the information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the first apparatus, a request for determination as to whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected;

examining whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected; and,

informing the first apparatus of the result of the examination performed in the examination step.

Claim 25 (Previously Rejected): A computer program product having computer readable instructions for causing a computer to perform processing associated with an information processing apparatus connected with a first network and a second network, for managing communication between a first apparatus and a second apparatus, the first apparatus being connected with the second network via an address translator for address transformation, the processing comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the first apparatus, a request for determination as to whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected;

examining whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected; and,

informing the first apparatus of the result of the examination performed in the examination step.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX